

Against the Grain

Volume 20 | Issue 2

Article 24

April 2008

From the Reference Desk

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Recommended Citation

Gilson, Thomas (2008) "From the Reference Desk," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 20: Iss. 2, Article 24.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.2751>

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From the Reference Desk

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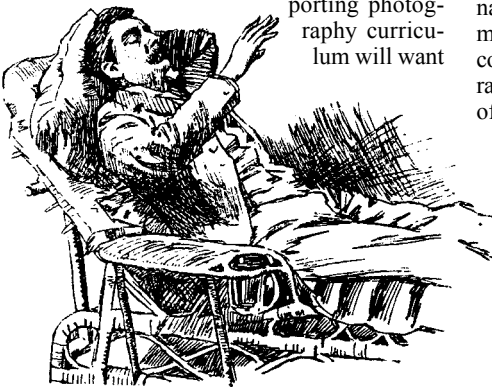
Any library interested in the history of photography should seriously consider **Routledge's** most recent contribution to the field. Edited by **John Hannavy**, the *Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography* (2008, 978-0415972352, \$440) offers readers an impressive and painstakingly researched reference work. According to the introduction there are 1,197 articles in this two-volume set: "610 major entries of 1,000 to 5,000 words, and additional 587 shorter entries." In addition, there are numerous images throughout the set that show examples of 19th century photographs, as well as pictures of the equipment used.

But of course it is the serious scholarly content of the entries that impresses most. Numerous entries are biographies of both famous and little known photographers and inventors, as well as their patrons and critics. There are also articles that offer national and regional surveys from places as remote as the Arctic and Antarctica to the countries of Western Europe as well as the United States, and from countries in Africa and South East Asia to those in Central and Latin America. By doing so, the *Encyclopedia* recognizes the contributions of indigenous practitioners who up to this point have been largely neglected. In addition, there are articles on early photographic processes, technology, and equipment, as well as those that discuss 19th century photographic societies and institutions, publications devoted to photography, and companies that were pioneers in the field of commercial photography.

Each entry has a list of further readings appropriate to the importance and scope of the article and "see also" references link related articles. There is a thorough and comprehensive general index, as well as an alphabetical and thematic list of all the entries.

Combined with **Routledge's** earlier *Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Photography* (2006, 1579583938, \$395), this reference provides readers with comprehensive coverage that sets the standard in the field. These works reveal the richness and surprising diversity of photographic history and provide an obvious starting place for students, as well as a vital source of easily accessible information for practicing scholars. Academic libraries supporting photog-

raphy curriculum will want



both the newly published *Encyclopedia of Nineteenth-Century Photography*, and if they do not already own it, the companion *Encyclopedia of Twentieth-Century Photography*.

Treaties with American Indians: An Encyclopedia of Rights, Conflicts, and Sovereignty (2008, 978-1576078808 \$285) is a three-volume work recently published by **ABC-CLIO** that will appeal to a number of libraries. The first thing that strikes you about this set is the arrangement. Eschewing the typical alphabetical format, these three volumes offer different but complimentary content that is held together by a general index reprinted in each volume and individual tables of contents.

The first volume consists of broad thematic essays that treat historic periods from colonial treaties to current agreements, Indian and government views of treaty making, treaty responsibilities and reserved rights, and related treaty issues specific to Canada, Alaska and Hawaii. This volume also contains six essays that provide overviews of treaty making in different regions from the Southeast and Florida to the Northern Plains; the Southwest to the Northeast and the Great Lakes and California and the Pacific Northwest to Canada. The second volume concentrates on the treaties themselves. It has descriptions of U.S and Canadian treaties arranged in chronological order, entries on important treaty sites, and a section of primary sources consisting of 40 actual treaties. Volume three provides a series of articles that give the reader a historical chronology of events and legal cases, as well as biographical sketches of those involved in treaty making. Another section has entries that discuss treaty related issues ranging from assimilation to Indian removal and from sovereignty to the right of conquest.

Admittedly, such an arrangement requires more time to adjust to, but by working with it, one can get a better sense of the interconnectedness of the various historic elements within the process of treaty making. Editor **Donald L. Fixico's** introduction is also worth reading in this regard.

Value added features include a list of alternative tribal names and spellings, tribal name meanings, a list of treaties by tribe, a guide to common treaty names and a selected bibliography. In addition, each essay/entry has a list of further readings.

Although one might argue that *Treaties with American Indians: An Encyclopedia of Rights, Conflicts, and Sovereignty* focuses on only one aspect of the American Indian — European encounter. Such treaties and agreements were, and are, essential elements within that relationship. They embody and reflect the political, social and legal history of that encounter. As such, these treaties, and the context in

which they were made, offer a broader perspective that the title of the encyclopedia leads one to believe.

Editor **Donald L. Fixico** and his contributors provide a unique reference that should draw serious attention from academic libraries collecting in this area. Larger public libraries might consider it as well.

(Broader reference works treating American Indian history are also worthy of addition to many collections. They include the *Encyclopedia of American Indian History* (2007, 978-1851098170, \$295) which is another recent **ABC-CLIO** title and *The Gale Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes* (1998, 978-0787610876). This older title is available used, via **Amazon**. The most essential title in this area remains the **Smithsonian's** multi-volume *Handbook of North American Indians* that is available by individual volume via **Amazon** and other online booksellers.)

Facts on File has been busy publishing a number of interesting single-volume encyclopedias and the *Encyclopedia of Hurricanes, Typhoons and Cyclones* (2008, 9780816062959, \$75) is an obvious example. Written by **David Longshore**, this is a second edition of a *Library Journal's* and **New York Public Library's** "Best of Reference" selection.

In this updated version, **Longshore** adds ten years of new information including coverage of individual storms, new forecasting technologies and developments in specific regions, states and countries prone to tropical events. There are also numerous articles that define storm and weather related terms ranging from the Fujiwara effect to extratropical cyclones and Doppler radar to tropical waves. In total, there are nearly 400 entries, 80 of which are new to this second edition. A number of appendices also add useful information. The encyclopedia includes a chronology, a list of hurricane safety procedures, a list of named hurricanes, typhoons, cyclones and tropical storms, and a section recommending Websites for tracking tropical events. There is also a collected bibliography of relevant books and periodical articles.

However, the general index could have been more thorough. For example, in looking for information about the city of Charleston and its history of hurricanes, the index is no help. Charleston is not listed in the alphabetical index although it is mentioned in the entries on South Carolina and in articles on individual storms like Hurricane Hugo. Obviously, in cases like this, the inclusion of "see" references in the index would have been useful. And while there is a list of A to Z entries, a topical or thematic index would be helpful as an additional finding aid in linking related articles.

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Aside from these concerns, *Encyclopedia of Hurricanes, Typhoons and Cyclones* is a fact-filled work with articles that are informative and accessible to both student and lay reader. And at this price, it is a reasonable and worthwhile investment for both academic and public libraries where there is interest. In fact, larger libraries may want this title for their circulating collections as well.

International Security and the United States: An Encyclopedia (2008, 978-0275992538, \$200) offers national surveys with a twist. Published by **Praeger Security International**, this two-volume set gives the reader historic background and discussions of society and politics of the countries that it covers. But it offers this information from a singular perspective. The emphasis here is on the "human security" within each country and how that country relates to the United States. And human security is defined broadly. The authors not only focus on internal violence in their discussions, issues like health care, necessary infrastructure, legal rights and the environment are all touched on.

A total of 48 countries are included and consist of nations that are most active on the world's stage in their relationships with the US. From Afghanistan to Venezuela there are essays on individual countries that, in addition to sections on history, society and politics, also discuss law and order, foreign affairs, security, and justice and human rights. The length of each essay varies but they generally range from 15-25 pages and each has a substantial bibliography. Given the survey nature of the essays, these bibliographies are particularly helpful for those wanting to do more in-depth research.

Although dealing with controversial issues, the essays are factual and attempt to be objective in their analysis. Indicative of the scholarly seriousness of the essays, the affiliations and credentials of each contributor are provided.

With its emphasis on security and foreign relations, *International Security and the United States: an Encyclopedia* provides a unique approach to the countries it discusses. Not intended for lay readers, the primary audience for this work is students, academics and professionals in the fields of international security and foreign relations. For interested libraries, this is another title that could be equally at home in reference or circulation.

Public librarians and their patrons will be more excited about **Greenwood Press' Crimes & Trials of the Century** (2007, 9780313341090). This two-volume set highlights many of the crimes and trials that are part of the "cultural memory" of the 20th century. From the **Black Sox** scandal of the 1919 World Series to the Unabomber, and from the kidnapping and murder of the **Lindbergh** baby to **Martha Stewart**, a total of 35 cases are discussed.

As you would expect of a reference work, the facts of each case are presented clearly and thoroughly. But each essay also discusses elements like the media's role, public perceptions, contemporary impacts and the case's aftermath and legacy. Visually enhanced by black and white photos and sidebars containing timelines, brief biographies and definitions, these two volumes are as enjoyable to browse as they are informative to read. Besides being compelling as individual articles, each one has suggestions for further reading, as well as a list of references useful for continued research.

Crimes & Trials of the Century is factual, fun and thought-provoking. It indulges our fascination with such events while raising

often uncomfortable issues about American popular culture that are part of our history and that remain with us today. While suitable for some reference collections, many libraries will want this set available for circulation. Given the length of the articles and the popularity of the topic, a number of readers will want to check this title out to explore at leisure.

Libraries looking for a broader approach covering more crimes and criminals might consider **Scarecrow Press' Great Pictorial History of World Crime** by the prolific **Jay Robert Nash** (2004, 1-928831-20-6, \$249) or **Fact on File's Encyclopedia of Crime** by **Carl Sifakis** (2001, 0-8160-4040-0, \$150). 🍁

Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

Column Editor: **Debbie Vaughn** (College of Charleston)
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Column Editor's Note: *Libraries are in the business of information. But — to paraphrase T. S. Eliot — what good is information without learning? When we examine the act of learning and dig down into the critical thinking behind it, the countless interdisciplinary connections emerge. History itself is an interdisciplinary discipline, for while learning about history one automatically learns about philosophy, art, economics, sociology, religion and literature. This month's column highlights two titles that demonstrate the interconnectedness of information, learning, and history. Gross and Worth's third edition of **This Day in American History** and Williams' second edition of **The Historian's Toolbox** provide a solid springboard for research and scholarship.*

*In his epic **The Wasteland**, Eliot called April the "cruelest month... stirring / Dull roots with spring rain." I, however, find the provocation of the senses brought on by spring to be the perfect time to revive my love of learning by pouring over books and the interconnected knowledge — the history — within them. Happy reading, everyone! — DV*

Gross, Ernie and Roland H. Worth, Jr. *This Day in American History*. 3rd ed. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2008. 9780786431922. 516 pages. \$75.00.
and **Williams, Robert C. *The Historian's Toolbox: A Student's Guide to the Theory and Craft of History*. 2nd ed. Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 2007. 9780765620279. 216 pages. \$22.95.**

Reviewed by **Debbie Vaughn** (College of Charleston)

My Bachelor of Arts is in history, and any historical title that passes my desk is of immediate interest to me. Two such titles are **Ernie Gross and Roland H. Worth's** third edition of ***This Day in American History*** and **Robert C. Williams's** second edition of ***The Historian's Toolbox: A Student's Guide to the Theory and Craft of History***. It goes without saying that books with subsequent editions must be meritorious enough to deserve a second or third publication; these two titles are of no exception.

This Day in American History is like the historical version of ALA's Anniversaries and Holidays — it is laid out by month and day, and events are then listed chronologically. This latest edition adds coverage from 2000-2006. Births and deaths of notable American figures, well- and little-known events, beginnings of

major social movements, court and legislative decisions, discoveries, disasters, "famous firsts," and other facts fill the 200+ pages. As **Worth** points out in the preface, these events

register as significant in American history. Praise them; condemn them. Either way these events *are*, and the knowledge of them provides not only the bare facts of our ever-changing society but also the flavor of sentiments and attitudes at any given moment in our history (1).

Gross and Worth are not strangers to publishing about the historical landscape. Between them, they have 13 other books from **McFarland** and numbers of titles from other publishers. Before his death, **Gross** had careers in newspaper journalism and govern-

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